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(54) **Minimally invasive biopsy device**

(57) A minimally invasive biopsy device (10) includes a cylindrical retractor (12) and a cylindrical cutting tool (14) slidably engaged within the cylindrical retractor (12). The cylindrical retractor (12) is adapted for insertion in an incision (43) above a lesion (61) to be

excised, and separates the walls of the incision (43) to provide access to the tissue to be excised. The cylindrical cutting tool (12) has a cutting means (21) which makes a cylindrical incision around the tissue to be excised. The tissue can then be accurately and quickly removed.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | EP 97306666.5 |
|--|--|---|---|
| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 6) |
| A | <u>US 5462062 A</u> (RUBINSTEIN, D.B. et al.) 31 October 1995 (31.10.95), fig: 5a, 5c, 6a, b, 7a, 7b, column 4, line 11 - column 5, line 13. -- | 1, 7, 8 | A 61 B 10/00 |
| A | <u>EP 0243341 A2</u> (ZATLOUKAL, K. et al.) 28 October 1987 (28.10.87), fig. 9, page 4, lines 21-33. -- | 1, 3, 4 | |
| A, D | <u>US 5353804 A</u> (KORNBERG, E. et al.) 11 October 1994 (11.10.94), fig. 3-7, column 6, lines 43-68, column 7, line 67 - column 8, line 41. -- | 1, 4, 7, 8 | |
| A | <u>US 5499989 A</u> (LA BASH, S.S.) 19 March 1996 (19.03.96), the whole document. ---- | 1, 4 | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 6) A 61 B |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search VIENNA | | Date of completion of the search 22-12-1997 | Examiner LUDWIG |
| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document | | | |

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